CLAIMS

We claim:

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1. A method for providing a local user with the identities of users with whom a remote user has been communicating, comprising:

obtaining a plurality of user representations, each of said plurality of user representations corresponding to a respective one of a plurality of users with whom said

10 selected remote user recently communicated; and

presenting said plurality of user representations in a computer system display, wherein all of said plurality of user representations are presented simultaneously in said computer system display, and wherein said plurality of user representations are presented in an order corresponding to an order in which said remote user communicated with each

15 of said users.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein each of said plurality of user representations comprises an image of said corresponding one of said plurality of users with whom said selected remote user recently communicated.

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3. The method of claim 2, wherein each of said plurality of user representations comprises indication of a communication application used for communicating between said respective one of said plurality of users and said selected remote user.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

obtaining a second plurality of user representations, each of said second plurality of user representations corresponding to a respective one of a plurality of users with whom a local user recently communicated; and

5   presenting said second plurality of user representations in a computer system display, wherein all of said second plurality of user representations are presented simultaneously in said computer system display, and wherein said second plurality of user representations are presented in an order corresponding to an order in which said local user communicated with each of said users.

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5. The method of claim 3, wherein each of said second plurality of user representations comprises an image of said corresponding one of said plurality of users with whom said local user recently communicated.

15   6. The method of claim 5, wherein each of said second plurality of user representations comprises indication of a communication application used for communicating between said respective one of said second plurality of users and said local user.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

20   presenting an interface to said local user, wherein said interface enables said local user to indicate whether information regarding communication activities of said local user is to be shared with remote users.

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

presenting an interface to said local user, wherein said interface enables said local user to specify communication activities of said local user that are to be shared with remote users.

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9. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

presenting an interface to said local user, wherein said interface enables said local user to specify one or more other users with which information regarding communication activities of said local user is to be shared.

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10. A system for providing a local user with the identities of users with whom a remote user has been communicating, comprising:

means for obtaining a plurality of user representations, each of said plurality of user representations corresponding to a respective one of a plurality of users with whom

15   said selected remote user recently communicated; and

means for presenting said plurality of user representations in a computer system display, wherein all of said plurality of user representations are presented simultaneously in said computer system display, and wherein said plurality of user representations are presented in an order corresponding to an order in which said remote user communicated

20   with each of said users.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein each of said plurality of user representations comprises an image of said corresponding one of said plurality of users with whom said selected remote user recently communicated.

5   12. The system of claim 11, wherein each of said plurality of user representations comprises indication of a communication application used for communicating between said respective one of said plurality of users and said selected remote user.

13. The system of claim 10, further comprising:

10   means for obtaining a second plurality of user representations, each of said second plurality of user representations corresponding to a respective one of a plurality of users with whom a local user recently communicated; and

        means for presenting said second plurality of user representations in a computer system display, wherein all of said second plurality of user representations are presented

15   simultaneously in said computer system display, and wherein said second plurality of user representations are presented in an order corresponding to an order in which said local user communicated with each of said users.

14. The system of claim 12, wherein each of said second plurality of user representations

20   comprises an image of said corresponding one of said plurality of users with whom said local user recently communicated.

15. The system of claim 14, wherein each of said second plurality of user representations comprises indication of a communication application used for communicating between said respective one of said second plurality of users and said local user.

5   16. The system of claim 10, further comprising:

      means for presenting an interface to said local user, wherein said interface enables said local user to indicate whether information regarding communication activities of said local user is to be shared with remote users.

10   17. The system of claim 10, further comprising:

      means for presenting an interface to said local user, wherein said interface enables said local user to specify communication activities of said local user that are to be shared with remote users.

15   18. The system of claim 10, further comprising:

      means for presenting an interface to said local user, wherein said interface enables said local user to specify one or more other users with which information regarding communication activities of said local user is to be shared.

20   19. A computer program product, wherein said computer program product includes a computer readable medium, said computer readable medium having a computer program for providing a local user with the identities of users with whom a remote user has been communicating stored thereon, said computer program comprising:

program code for obtaining a plurality of user representations, each of said

plurality of user representations corresponding to a respective one of a plurality of users

with whom said selected remote user recently communicated; and

program code for presenting said plurality of user representations in a computer

5   system display, wherein all of said plurality of user representations are presented

simultaneously in said computer system display, and wherein said plurality of user

representations are presented in an order corresponding to an order in which said remote

user communicated with each of said users.

10   20. The computer program product of claim 19, wherein each of said plurality of user

representations comprises an image of said corresponding one of said plurality of users

with whom said selected remote user recently communicated.

21. The computer program product of claim 20, wherein each of said plurality of user

15   representations comprises indication of a communication application used for

communicating between said respective one of said plurality of users and said selected

remote user.

22. The computer program product of claim 19, said computer program further

20   comprising:

program code for obtaining a second plurality of user representations, each of said

second plurality of user representations corresponding to a respective one of a plurality of

users with whom a local user recently communicated; and

program code for presenting said second plurality of user representations in a computer system display, wherein all of said second plurality of user representations are presented simultaneously in said computer system display, and wherein said second plurality of user representations are presented in an order corresponding to an order in which said local user communicated with each of said users.

23. The computer program product of claim 21, wherein each of said second plurality of user representations comprises an image of said corresponding one of said plurality of users with whom said local user recently communicated.

24. The computer program product of claim 23, wherein each of said second plurality of user representations comprises indication of a communication application used for communicating between said respective one of said second plurality of users and said local user.

25. The computer program product of claim 19, said computer program further comprising:

program code for presenting an interface to said local user, wherein said interface enables said local user to indicate whether information regarding communication activities of said local user is to be shared with remote users.

26. The computer program product of claim 19, said computer program further comprising:

program code for presenting an interface to said local user, wherein said interface enables said local user to specify communication activities of said local user that are to be shared with remote users.

5   27. The computer program product of claim 19, said computer program further comprising:

program code for presenting an interface to said local user, wherein said interface enables said local user to specify one or more other users with which information regarding communication activities of said local user is to be shared.

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28. A system for providing a local user with the identities of users with whom a remote user has been communicating stored thereon, said computer program comprising:

program code, stored in a computer readable memory communicably coupled to at least one processor, for obtaining a plurality of user representations, each of said

15   plurality of user representations corresponding to a respective one of a plurality of users with whom said selected remote user recently communicated; and

program code, stored in said computer readable memory, for presenting said plurality of user representations in a computer system display, wherein all of said plurality of user representations are presented simultaneously in said computer system

20   display, and wherein said plurality of user representations are presented in an order corresponding to an order in which said remote user communicated with each of said users.

29. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave, said computer data signal including at least one computer program for providing a local user with the identities of users with whom a remote user has been communicating, said computer program comprising:

5   program code for obtaining a plurality of user representations, each of said plurality of user representations corresponding to a respective one of a plurality of users with whom said selected remote user recently communicated; and

program code for presenting said plurality of user representations in a computer system display, wherein all of said plurality of user representations are presented

10   simultaneously in said computer system display, and wherein said plurality of user representations are presented in an order corresponding to an order in which said remote user communicated with each of said users.